

Please do not allow AT&T to buy out T-Mobile. This merger will be harmful to consumers as T-Mobile is AT&T's only direct competition in the United States GSM cell phone market. This will cause consumers in the United States to be forced to have service with AT&T or go without use of a GSM network (which is the only cell phone technology, at least in the U.S., that can be used on a global platform. T-Mobile is a lower-cost, GSM option to AT&T. This lower-cost, GSM option will be eliminated if AT&T is allowed to buyout T-Mobile. Past cellphone carrier buyouts have proved this to be a fact and not just speculation. Take the Verizon buyout of Alltel; Alltel was a major low-cost competitor to Verizon in the CDMA cell phone market. Consequently, when the buyout finalized, Alltel customers were given a notice that after their contract expired they would have to sign-up for one of Verizon's service plans. For Alltel customers, this meant they would have to either pay the same or a similar price for significantly less services; or they would pay a significantly higher price for the same or similar services. The Verizon buyout of Alltel severely limited consumers' choices for CDMA cell phones...limited but not eliminated. Most consumers were still able to solicit Sprint for low-cost CDMA cellphone plans. Alltel customers also had the options of signing up for prepaid services with prepaid carriers that used sprints CDMA network like Boost Mobile or Virgin Mobile USA.

Just as with Verizon and Alltel, T-Mobile customers will be forced to concede to higher prices or less services. However, for T-Mobile customers there is no other GSM carrier for us to solicit for business. Even the prepaid GSM cellphone market is likely to be eliminated. Tracfone and Simple Mobile both offer prepaid cellphones on a GSM network. However, Tracfone uses AT&T's network and Simple Mobile uses T-Mobile's network. AT&T can easily decide to no longer allow prepaid carriers to use their network. However; even if AT&T continues to allow prepaid carriers to use their network, AT&T would have too much power in affecting the price of prepaid GSM services and phones. Again, AT&T's buyout of T-Mobile will harm consumers by severely crippling our choices in the GSM cellphone markets. Do the right thing for the consumer and block AT&T's buyout of T-Mobile.

Thank You